

THE HERON HERALD



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Election 2018: NPA seniors debate on the issues

By **Slate Taylor**
Staff Writer

As people were casting their ballots for the 2018 midterm elections in the social hall of the Arcata United Methodist Church, NPA seniors debated those very same issues in another room. The debates covered the race for the California Senate seat between Dianne Feinstein (Somerset Nielsen) and Kevin De Leon (Phoenix Arnold), the race for governor between Gavin Newsom (Madison Cooper) and John Cox (Gabriel Blank), and the votes on propositions including: six, seven, ten, and twelve. Throughout the debates, the seniors gave some very convincing opening and closing statements, answering two questions in between. After the debates had finished, NPA students (including the seniors) voted on the matters addressed.

Ian Long and J.T. Albright moderated the event, introducing each candidate and giving introductions to the legislator whose turn it was to speak. Each debate included opening statements, rebuttals, questions, and closing statements and was held in front of the entire NPA student body. Two Heron Herald staff members presented a question for each topic, and both debaters each had a chance to respond in less than a minute.

Blank, who opened the Cox versus Newsom debate said that “I prepared for the debate mostly by researching [Cox’s] policy positions online and how he articulated his argument.” During the debate, Blank was asked about Cox’s position on gay rights and same sex marriage. He responded that, “it would be cognitive dissonance to believe in personal liberty... while denying the right to exercise it. I don’t think it’s reasonable to enforce morality on non believers.” Blank said, “It was tough to prepare an answer for that one, seeing as he had flip-flopped on the issue before.”

After questions had been addressed, closing statements were issued and voting began. A large portion of students turned out to vote with 98 ballots cast for 116 students. The amount of voters for each class are as follows: 19 ballots for 27 freshmen, 34 ballots for 39 sophomores, 20 ballots for 29 juniors, and 24 ballots for 25 seniors. This makes the senior class **See MIDTERMS page 6**



PHOTOS BY EVA SWARTZ
Above: Senior Cypress Killeen gives his statement for voting against Proposition 10 in the Midterm Election debate.
Below: Sophomores Savannah Tarlton (left) and Cosmo Bernstein (right) fill out their ballots.

S.L.U.G.S.

Gun storage ordinance introduced by sophomores passed by Arcata City Council

By **Abram Rau**
Staff Writer

On the cold and rainy Saturday of March 24, 2018, about 1,000 students and activists from all over Humboldt County congregated in front of the Arcata Playhouse for the March for our Lives.

They joined more than 800 other student-led marches across America, totaling more than two million people across the nation, in calling for reformed gun laws as well as increased background checks needed to purchase guns following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida.

After the shooting on February 14, 2018, in Parkland where 17 students and staff members were killed and 17 others were injured, issues relating to gun control and safety were being floated around the media, eventually reaching the classroom of Arnold King. King, an NPA history teacher, led a class discussion about the issue. “I remember the energy that came out of that,” King said looking back, “instead of grief, it was more of a spur towards action, the inspiration to get involved.”

Getting involved is exactly what two of King’s students, then-freshmen Olivia Joachim and Eva Swartz, planned to do after discussing the actions being taken by people across the country. It was one month before

“I remember the energy that came out of [the Parkland Shooting]. Instead of grief, it was more of a spur towards action, the inspiration to get involved.”

Arnold King, NPA Instructor

Joachim and Swartz made progress with their idea. The two made the first step of their journey when they coined the acronym S.L.U.G.S., which stands for “Save Lives, Use Gun Storage,” the idea that their proposal would be based on.

At the first of five meetings which Joachim and Swartz would speak at they were the last to speak during the public comment period. Swartz **See SLUGS page 5**

The Ashland Trip: Students reflect on the plays



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Shared perseverance and belief defined the performances of Rodney Gardiner (left) and Christina Clark (right) in playing a Mormon couple fleeing west in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of The Way the Mountain Moved.

The Way the Mountain Moved

By **Tehilla Horowitz**
Staff Writer

The dappled sky illuminated the small room with flickering stars as a gentle breeze slowly passed through the silent crowd. Immediately, the sensation of time rushing back into the past

swept through the audience. One Native American, one white American, a leather bound notebook, and a moment of silence; the story begins to unfold.

The building of the transcontinental railroad was presented in a personal and original way in The Way the Mountain

Moved, a new work at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. A brave attempt was made to portray different perspectives and cultures throughout the production. Not only were the views of both Native Americans and

See MOUNTAIN page 3

Character Matters

Seniors discuss the portrayal of Iago in Shakespeare’s classic Othello

By **Somerset Nielsen**
Staff Writer

As Othello kissed his wife for the last time and took his final breath, much of NPA’s senior class and many of their teachers were left speechless. This captivating and haunting production by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, of Shakespeare’s beloved tragedy, was well-received by many of the students and faculty that saw it, and while some were left feeling unsatisfied by the performance, the overall response was very positive.

Othello is the story of a well-respected Moorish general of Venice who falls victim to the manipulation and trickery of one of his most trusted soldiers, who goes by the name Iago. In an effort to get revenge on the man who has wronged him, Iago convinces Othello that his new bride, Desdemona has not been faithful to him. Jealousy and paranoia take over, and Othello quickly turns on his wife and, eventually, is driven to horrific

See OTHELLO page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Iago, as played by Danforth Comins, frequently engaged the audience in the events onstage in a wrenchingly humanizing portrayal of the infamous character in Shakespeare’s Othello.

SPORTS Girls’ Tennis

The NPA girls tennis team wraps up another successful season. The team was made up of mostly underclassmen, and they gained valuable experience for seasons to come.
SEE PAGE 6



ACTIVISM Ocean Protection

Club spearheaded by NPA sophomore Lea Eider lends a hand in reducing plastic waste in our community. Though the club was recently founded, they have already had an effect on local environments.
SEE PAGE 2



EVENTS Redwood Pride

NPA students march with their community at the annual Redwood Pride. This event included performances and activities for all ages.
SEE PAGE 9



The Word

As a student, why do you think it's important that your fellow Americans vote?



Miles Eldridge

Most Americans are under the assumption that their vote won't count because they're only one person and millions of votes are tallied. But what they don't really realize is that as long as you get the people you know to go out and vote - your coworkers, your friends, your relatives - that all those votes can add up and make an actual important impact, not only on the country, but on your daily life.



Zipporah Gaskill

I think it's important that Americans vote because this is a country that we live in so we should decide what happens in it, and if no one votes, then it's all going to be run by the government. If we want to make a change, that's at least somewhere to start.



Mateo Avcollie

It's important that people vote because we basically elect the government, and that government follows the wishes of the people. The people of course want better education and better structures, so if we vote we will end up with those things.



Leo Peerson

It's important that Americans vote so that we make our voices heard. A majority of the United States are democratic, but they're deciding not to vote and that's how we got Trump in office. From what I've seen so far for who has been voted into office this past election, it's been a better turnout, and I think we're eventually going to get to a place where the United States is going to be a better place overall for everyone.

A plastic-free ocean begins with you

Eider launches Ocean Protection Club to advocate against plastic waste

By Bella Ely
Staff Writer

How often do you get a plastic straw in your drink? If you answer "probably every time I order out," do you ever stop to think about how that adds up? In America alone, 500 million straws are used every single day. That's the equivalent of 125 school buses filled to the brim - daily. The majority of those straws end up in the ocean, not just polluting the water, but also harming the wildlife.

Lea Eider, an NPA sophomore, has taken on the challenge of eliminating single use plastics on the NPA campus. Eider wants to "reduce plastic waste as a whole," and hopes to eventually "get Arcata to ban single use plastics." This past summer, Eider attended the waste awareness program, Ocean Heros Boot Camp in New Orleans, Louisiana. Students came from all over the U.S., and even internationally, to learn about effective methods of waste reduction. The camp is designed to provide youth leaders with the scientific knowledge to campaign effectively and inspire activism. During this two day course, Eider became more aware about her own plastic use in her daily life, saying that "I've been ignoring it most of my life." However, with her perspective changed, she decided that she can no longer act in this way. Eider believes that the greatest long term benefit from the camp was all of the connections she now has, saying that "[it] put [her] in contact with a lot of people" that she can rely on as constant resources.

Eider is inspired to empower others to affect change, and believes that anyone can reduce waste in their day to day life if they try. For example, replacing plastic bottles with reusable ones, avoiding plastic straws by declining them when they're offered or bringing your own reusable version, and bringing reus-

able mugs or reusing paper cups as long as possible are simple, yet effective, ways of reducing waste.

Eider realized by not addressing plastic waste we're not only "poisoning animals, [but also] ourselves." Single use plastics never go away, they just turn into microplastics that break down in our water and convert our oceans into a toxic soup that kills marine life.

Eider recently joined Zero Waste Humboldt (ZWH), a local group whose mission is to leave a clean, green footprint in Humboldt County. ZWH was founded in February 2011, after local residents noticed flaws in the Humboldt Waste Management Authority contract. ZWH works to preserve the North Coast's natural beauty through educating the public, providing training and assistance, and advocating for the use of sustainable materials.

Eider put into action her plan of banning single use plastics in Arcata last month by going to a city council meeting and making a statement

during public comment "encouraging the ban [of] plastic straws." In addition, people from the bootcamp wrote her a letter of support.

Eider also started a club at NPA, the Ocean Protection Club, to enlist and educate other students about the zero waste movement. The club meets every Thursday at lunch, discussing a wide range of topics, from local issues to global affairs. They have already 'adopted' the Mad River County Park in Arcata, and plan to do monthly beach cleanups throughout the year.

Eider decided to start the club to "get a bunch of different talents together," for example, some members of the group initiated a social media campaign (@Project_Posiden on Instagram). Eider's other goals for the club consist of writing to politicians, a school wide trash audit, and presenting to elementary schools. Eider says that "presenting at schools [is her] main goal" so that she can teach kids how bad single use plastics are from an early age.



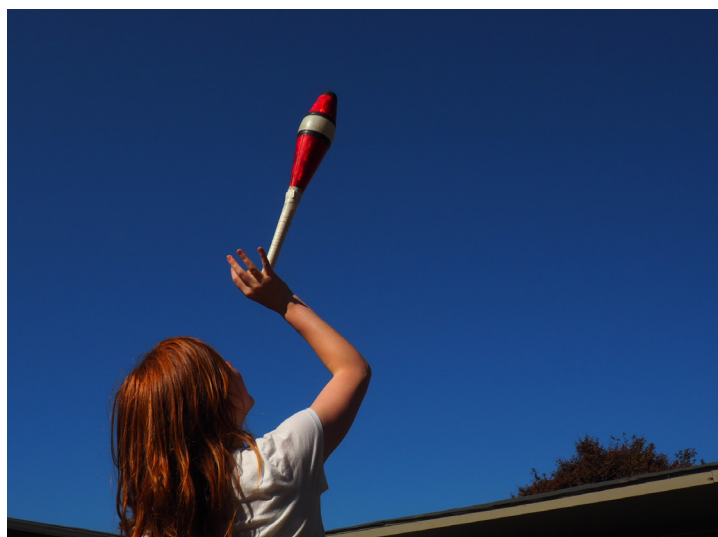
PHOTO COURTESY OF LEA EIDER

From left to right: Sophomores Darby Baskin-Green, Ruby Devoe, Eva Pearlengi, Zipporah Gaskill, Emma Lucas-Zerbe, and Lea Eider display the debris they collected, which included a whopping 50 pounds of nails.

Rings, clubs, and scarves, oh my!

The newly-founded juggling elective at NPA

By Ruby Devoe
Staff Writer



In the courtyard, a posse of student jugglers wield various rings, clubs, scarves, and balls in an only slightly dangerous dance of airborne objects. This is part of the new juggling elective founded this year at NPA. The class is comprised of about eight students, but also welcomes participants from other electives who want to try their hand at juggling. In the courtyard, teacher Danielle Davis helps students practice this ancient and storied art using various techniques and mediums, including those described above and more. Students also bring additional objects from home to increase their juggling repertoire. Sharing what you've learned among the community is a large part of what the juggling elective represents - the importance of sharing knowledge and techniques in an informal and (most importantly) fun setting.

Juggling has long been a significant part of Davis's life. When she was in her mid-twenties, she began learning the art from her grandfather. She recalls that she rarely saw him, but when she did, he began teaching her to juggle. To advance her juggling skills further, Davis approached a professor at HSU who encouraged her to continue practicing in the juggling club there. As a part of this club, Davis not only improved her juggling but formed friendships with other students. "I met all kinds of people," she says. In fact, Davis met her husband as a result of juggling, and both of them enjoy juggling on the Arcata Plaza at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays.

It is the sense of community which juggling promotes that inspired Davis to start a club at NPA. She wished to share what she has learned and to promote communication between students. Davis believes in the power of juggling to bring people together in a casual and stress-free environment and says that she sees the students bonding as a result. Part of this is that in the juggling elective, everybody is encouraged to try new things, but without the pressure that is often put on students in other classes. Davis has seen the positive effects that this can have, not only on those in her elective but among the entire student body. As a result of students sharing their new skills and knowledge with others, Davis sees them learning and making new friendships in the process.

PHOTOS BY EVA SWARTZ

Members of the juggling elective diligently practice their art. Danielle Davis (top) is the leader of this new elective, and sees it as a way to make new connections. Logan Smith (middle) and Maya Hergenrader (bottom) are two students who are learning to juggle.



The Ashland Trip: Students reflect on the plays

MOUNTAIN

from page 1

Caucasians shown, but there was also a beautiful representation of African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and even a mute man. Some of the issues presented also tied in with problems we are still facing to this day.

The story of the Mexican-American man follows the separation of his family, along with the difficult decisions he had to make regarding his country, culture, and the American dream. This provided a strong parallel to the terrible compromises, struggles, and sacrifices which today’s Mexican-American families are faced with. Another likeness in the play between the present and past was when an unarmed black man was shot, this act excused by the potential that he could have been an unknown threat. This brings up the injustices that the black population has to face today and the many unnecessary deaths that are caused by racist views.

While the railroad is said to have caused great agony, it also brought about great change in America. This play, however, allows you to focus on the question of moral and ethical change brought by the railroad. It has allowed for the safer transportation of goods and people, the creation of new towns and homes, and the growth of businesses. But did the railroad shape and change the souls of people for the better? Did it change the struggles that minorities face? Or have we once again been deceived by corporate America?

Religion was also introduced in a nonconventional way in this play. While most characters faced a religious struggle, the two who truly represented the battle of faith were a black couple, bringing up the question of race over faith. While the couple was continually disrespected, both in and out of church, they held on steadfast towards their teachings, a strong representation of not only their troubles but their peoples’ struggles and their never ending pursuit and dedication towards freedom and justice. The questioning of God and a higher power was a recurring theme throughout the production by all people. The reasoning behind the worship of God was discussed as He watches while famine, fire, death, tears, and heartbreak plague the human race; what responsibility do we have to fawn over him?

Contemporary ideas were included as well. A scientist by the name of Dr. Harris, a researcher for the transcontinental railroad, believed in science as his faith. His unwavering dedication towards the field showed more excitement and devotion than any other character towards their faith. One interpretation could be our society’s deep-rooted dependence on facts and the scientific field. Dr. Harris was not only a scientist, but an avid believer in speaking the truth. His honesty was, in some ways, very refreshing, but at other points unrealistic. An interesting decision was made by leaving racism out of the play. While it was mentioned, Dr. Harris never gave a racist remark, but rather defended those of color. Nevertheless, he spoke of injustices, including those that Native Americans had to face, and how whites would take advantage of the widespread mistrust and hatred of the indigenous people (at times by dressing as they did and acting on criminal behaviors). Dr. Harris truly believed in the benefits of the railroad and the righteous progress that it would bring upon the American people. His was the first and only death in the production. It wasn’t only the death of a man but the death of brutal honesty, hope, and allegiance to a better coexistence with the world.

An alluring and fascinating aspect of the play was the decision to completely disregard stereotypes. A powerful representation of women of all races is shown in a tasteful and influential way. The white woman left with her daughter on a dangerous trail with only a broken wagon and an axe to protect themselves, the pregnant black woman tried desperately to protect her husband and their freedom, the indigenous woman willing to take any measures to fight for her people, and the young women defying the influence of the only man in her life and instead turning to her own faith and beliefs. The portrayal of men showed sensitive and traumatized human beings instead of unbreakable masculine figures. The black man who is often shown as aggressive and impulsive was depicted as



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Phyllis Cooke (Sara Bruner) and Helen (Maddy Flemming) find themselves confronted by hostile forces. The mother-daughter pair represented a facet of the struggle for survival in new, harsh lands.

a sensitive, faithful, and loving person. Another man, traumatized by his childhood due to the killing of his family because of racial reasons, a mute, shared his feelings and love through art and writing. A scene of him relaying the story of his parent’s death through drawings unfolded for the audience above on the screens, causing indescribable emotions of fear and sadness. The elimination of words brought about a sudden sense of realization of how delicate communication, not only between different cultures but also between ourselves, can be and how such small details, such as those of stereotyping, can have a huge and detrimental impact.

The Way the Mountain Moved was a stirring and thought-provoking play which portrayed critically the issues of today, showing both the progress that America has and hasn’t made.

OTHELLO

from page 1

acts. Iago’s behavior is the driving force of this tragedy, and in destroying reputations and using the racism and misogyny of his society to his advantage, he leads Othello to his demise.

Othello, played by Chris Butler, was portrayed much differently than what many students were expecting. Having read the play in English class with teacher Carl Mumm, many students were expecting to see Othello as a noble and righteous man but instead were met with Butler’s Othello, who was much more emotional and hot-headed. To some, such as students Caelum Zwiker and Cypress Killeen, this version of Othello proved to be preferable to the one they had pictured while reading the play. To others, however, such as NPA’s theater teacher Jean Bazemore, Butler’s portrayal of the character was an immense disappointment. Killeen appreciated that Othello was not the level-headed and strong general he had expected, saying that he was more human and relatable, as

“no human is a truly righteous one.” Zwiker had a similar thought, saying that “Othello was a very emotional character, and I actually may have preferred that because it offered a sense of humanization and made the transformation from the optimistic and loving general into an almost demonic entity much more provocative and meaningful.” Bazemore, on the other hand, felt that the portrayal was offensive and demeaning, saying that “to portray him as some kind of incompetent and ignorant black man is really insulting, not only to the text’s portrayal of him but also to any African-American who saw that play.” Another disappointment for Bazemore was that she felt as though the tragedy of the play couldn’t be properly experienced because the audience didn’t understand Othello’s true character. Bazemore notes that “anyone who is deeply in love, which Othello was with Desdemona, is vulnerable,” and that this production denigrated this idea and removed all of the tragedy from it. Othello was a nobleman with dignity and honor who was corrupted by Iago because of the vulnerability that comes with being in love, but Bazemore felt that Butler’s version of Othello was lacking

the depth and dignity that makes that corruption meaningful.

Iago, portrayed by Danforth Comins, is the center of the chaos that unfolds throughout the play. In the senior class’ socratic seminar, which was held in Ashland directly following the play, the meaning behind the character of Iago was a topic that came up repeatedly, and students have many theories, ranging from Iago being the devil to being a psychopath. NPA’s seniors were desperately looking for an explanation for how someone could be such a personification of pure evil. Most students agreed that Comins’ portrayal of Iago was brilliant and that he gave life to the role and truly instilled the sense of dread and disgust that they were anticipating. Zwiker commented on the portrayal of Iago by saying that, as an audience member, he could almost sympathize with Iago, and that Comins’ performance forced the audience to really understand the story from Iago’s perspective, which made the play all the more gut-wrenching. According to Comins, this was exactly his intention. He wanted to capitalize on that relationship between Iago and the audience, and he did so very effectively. Iago’s relationship with the audience is crucial to the story because, according to Comins, it forces the audience to be “silently complicit” in the tragedy. The audience is put in a difficult position, as Iago tells them everything that is about to happen, but they can’t really do anything about it, they are forced to just sit back and watch everything fall apart. Not only does Iago tell the audience his plan, but he gets up close and personal to do so. One bold choice made by Comins and the director of the production, Bill Rauch, was to turn on the house lights during Iago’s soliloquies. Comins thought this choice was important because it really forced that relationship between character and audience, and meant that he could really get into the audience’s laps. Iago’s soliloquies force the audience to ask themselves: What does it mean if you watch something happen and you know you can do something about it, but you don’t?

Bazemore took issue with Comins’ performance, saying that she felt as though he didn’t truly understand Iago’s evil and the racial hate that he felt towards Othello. Comins, however, doesn’t share her belief that Iago was motivated by racism. According to Comins, the text suggests that Othello and Iago were close friends and

had fought many battles together without race becoming an issue. Comins states that “I don’t consider him to be as much of a racist, or an outward misogynist, from his own standpoint. That doesn’t mean he isn’t racist or misogynistic, I just don’t think he’s motivated by that, at least not on a conscious level.” Adding on to this, Comins says that “I think he uses the racism and misogyny in others to his advantage more than he is motivated by it himself,” explaining that Iago brings out the feelings of hatred in others to manipulate them into believing the gossip he has fabricated, but he is not personally motivated by those feelings. Comins also notes that Iago’s racism and misogyny act as a method of making people feel insecure and vulnerable. His tendency to prey on Othello’s insecurities about his race demonstrate this very well. Mumm agreed with this standpoint, and he cited Shakespeare’s language to support it. According to Mumm, Iago’s use of derogatory and disrespectful words towards women and his use of phrases like “be a man” when talking to Othello demonstrate his use of misogyny and toxic masculinity as a means of manipulating the people around him.

In terms of what Iago represents, the senior class is divided, but Comins has a clear vision for his character that most people could agree with. According to Comins, Iago just being the devil is too simple, he instead thinks of Iago as “the devil next door, the devil you know. He represents the weakness and pettiness in all of us, that self-destructive behavior that leads to destructive behavior in real life.” He added that Iago is “human and relatable,” and that “we all have an Iago in us.” He says that we all, at times, become self-absorbed in our own ego, and that prevents us from doing good. Comins believes that Iago is a great lesson about being too involved in your own ego and that the belief that you are the only one that matters is much more dangerous than one might expect.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s original and introspective take on a well-known play was, overall, well-liked by NPA’s senior class. It was widely agreed upon that the connections between the characters and the audience were strong and meaningful, and, regardless of their personal opinions about the show, everyone who saw it got the opportunity to view the play in a new light and contemplate what we each can learn from the tragic tale.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Iago (Danforth Comins) and Othello (Chris Butler) share one of many moments of intense emotion and tension in the exuberant, impassioned production of Othello.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Actress Emily Ota (left) and Actor Nate Cheeseman (right) portray Marianne and the flirtatious Willoughby in an engaging scene in Sense and Sensibility.

By Gabriel Blank and Jack McLaughlin
Staff Writers

Amidst the various unique approaches to the yearly Shakespeare productions at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, this year’s adaptation of historic British writer Jane Austen’s work was refreshing and distinctive. Sense and Sensibility has been brought to the stage with its time period and setting largely untouched. While the work may be unlikely to gather new fans, it provides an expertly presented adaptation with plenty of heart.

Although the play is abbreviated from its book counterpart, the quick and biting wit, (the quality most likely to please the non-converts), shines through on the stage and, in many cases, almost as well as in the source material. Much of the delivery of this sharp commentary depends on the trio of Dashwood sisters, Elinor (Nancy Rodriguez), Marianne (Emily Ota) and Margaret (Samantha Miller), the former two of which show a strong emotional bond that grounds the audience in the plight of its differently inclined protagonists as they weather the storm of courtship

and romance together. Romances throughout various tiers of English society see the sisters engage with the flirtatious Willoughby (Nate Cheeseman), the honorable Colonel Brandon (Kevin Kenerly), and of course the painfully sensible Edward Ferrars (Armando McClain).

The set was the inside of a large and decorative house, with numerous doors on the two stories of the house. The set, consisting of many entrances and exits, allowed actors to appear from all sides and levels of the stage. This created the feeling of a real house, in which people could come from any of the rooms in the house, making the production feel more natural and realistic. The second story was advantageous when actors needed to create a separation between each other on the stage. The sets’ useful design was a crucial asset to the actors and the overall appearance of the play.

The success of this lively adaptation of Austen’s work was greatly attributed to the imaginative creation and use of a spectacular set, accompanied by lighting and the actors’ presentation of the characters, which were both dynamic and bold. The creative use of both technical, and unique theater conventions resulted in a spectacular show, keeping

the audience entertained and interested in the story. The stage would occasionally change in order to fit the scene at hand, amplifying the mood. This creativity enhanced the story and maintained the energy on stage throughout the play.

A downside to these artistic choices is that some audience members focus more on the stage than on the story, leaving those audience members with an experience that could lack that special feeling of having a theater performance make you think, feel, and experience a whole different world. Theater is created to have an impact. A play that doesn’t have an impact on the viewer is arguably not worth the time and money it takes to view it. While some would argue against the use of these theater techniques, as they might focus more on showmanship than on the story itself, the final product presented to the audience appeals to a wider range of people, as most aren’t theater purists that would prefer theatrical performances that don’t include or rely on these bold stage conditions. With this in mind, this production did an excellent job at bringing Jane Austen’s Sense and Sensibility to life on stage while appealing to a wide range of audience members.

From fair Verona to Ashland

OSF presents a mostly traditional production of Romeo and Juliet

By Zoe Osborn & Meadow Jennings
Staff Writers

Travel into a world of tragedy and romance with a production of Romeo and Juliet at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland. To some it may seem as though this production didn’t include any interesting new takes on the play, but critics beg to differ. Full of talented actors and musicians alike, this production is full of diversity while maintaining a quasi traditional take on the play. The combination of skilled lighting and music, as well as thought-out sets and calculated scenes, takes the audience back to the Elizabethan era as they take part in a classic story of two star-crossed lovers “in fair Verona where we lay our scene.”

One of the most interesting aspects of this production was the incorporation of sign language. The prologue to the play, traditionally done verbally by one person, was spoken in part by

almost all of the characters, who were also using sign language. While the use of sign language is not maintained throughout the entirety of the play, it is nicely inserted into certain scenes in a way that adds to the theatrical experience as a whole. Lady Capulet (Monique Holt) speaks only in sign language, which is powerful and gives more depth to the relatively small role.

Another aspect that helped to captivate the audience was the skillful use of lighting. The production took place in the outdoor theater, which forced the lighting to be done in a creative way. Tall mirrors with illuminated edges were an integral part in this creativity. The mirrors were moved to different places depending on what was happening, and they set the tone and mood of the scene before it even began. The simplicity of the illuminated mirrors paired with the detailed set enhanced this show immensely.

Due to the fact that the Allen Elizabethan theater is composed of one permanent set, the director of this play (Damaso Rodriguez) had to find innovative ways to create the many different scenes in this production. Whether it was Friar Laurence’s (Michael J. Hume) garden rising out of the floor or Juliet’s bed coming out from the back of the stage, those watching were able to see each new scene, even as the main set stayed the same. These well thought-out sets helped to amplify the accomplished acting of this production.

Overall, the acting in this production was very strong, with the cast including a mixture of both new and seasoned actors. Emily Ota, who is in her second season with OSF, brought Juliet to life with a nuanced and refined portrayal of the character. This paired nicely with William Hodgson’s contrasting portrayal of Romeo, which illustrated the character’s impulsive personality in a rough yet remarkable way. The only other aspect of this play found to be lacking were the death scenes of certain characters. While Sara Bruner’s performance as Mercutio was impeccable and her acting in Mercutio’s death scene was outstanding, the props to accompany this death scene didn’t match the high caliber acting. The fake blood was not convincing and simply broke the reality of the world they were trying to create and made the scene overall less believable. This was mostly true for the other deaths, the one exception being Juliet’s, which was realistic due to the authentic fake blood and Emily Ota’s solid acting. Overall, the acting was well done and truly brought the show to life.

Although the director and actors could have devoted more attention to certain aspects of this play, this production of Romeo and Juliet was exceptional. Actors managed to bring the audience into this tale as they produced this exemplary production.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Above: Sara Bruner’s impeccable portrayal of Mercutio pictured before her death scene. Below: Lady Capulet mourns the death of Tybalt.

NPA Coffee lives on

By Abram Rau
Staff Writer

Coffee is one of the oldest drinks regularly consumed by humans. Throughout its existence, many of its benefits have been explored and researched over centuries, and it has spread all over the world. NPA alum Ryan Meshulam had been NPA’s coffee expert, spokesperson, and marketer for the entirety of its existence, making sure every NPA student left Friday announcements knowing a little more about coffee. His catchphrase “Did you know?” let you prepare for the oncoming coffee fact. It became an NPA tradition.

When NPA students arrived for the 2018-2019 school year, however, Meshulam had left for Canada, where he is currently studying Electrical Engineering at the University of British Columbia. Left without someone to aggressively market organic, NPA-branded coffee, it faded into obscurity as the first school weeks went by. However, Sasha Woodruff, who inherited the job as spokesperson this year while managing the coffee program, states that NPA coffee is not closing up shop anytime soon. “We are still taking orders,” she explained.

Woodruff says that NPA coffee plans to expand into tea this year, but doesn’t have any dates so far. So when you pour your morning cup of Joe or your evening cup of tea, it could just be from NPA’s own coffee brand.





Georgopolis provides new perspectives for NPA community

By Amaya Bechler
Staff Writer

While John Georgopolis may be a newcomer to the NPA community, he has quickly found his place at the school both academically, and in coaching the girl’s basketball team. Entering the 2018-2019 school year as his first at both the high school and middle school, Georgopolis currently co-teaches freshman English with Dr. Jean Bazemore and explains that he has had a very positive experience during his short time here.

Georgopolis says that “English has always been important to me,” and so has teaching. Going into the military provided him with access to a college education, which allowed him to pursue teaching as a career. He has now taught for over fifteen years, six of which he has spent teaching in Humboldt. Georgopolis’ previous jobs have been in both Fortuna and McKinleyville, and he is excited “not only for the reputation of the school but because it is closer to where [he] lives.”

“It’s really a privilege to work with a set of students who are consistently motivated to learn, for learning itself.”

John Georgopolis, NPA instructor

Initially learning of the job opening at NPA through former NPA teacher Anna McKay, Georgopolis was hired for a middle school position. As part of this position, he also had the opportunity to teach ninth grade English with Dr. Bazemore. “What a special opportunity this is for a teacher,” Georgopolis remarks, “not only for the great support that NPA offers students but for the type of students that NPA seems to attract.” Pleasantly surprised by the attentiveness and focus of the class, the new NPA teacher reflects that “it’s really a privilege to work with a set of students who are consistently motivated to learn, for learning itself.” The innate curiosity of his students makes their education, to Georgopolis, “a very special task to support and guide them into self-inquiry, into gaining information and developing as learners themselves.”

Working with the school’s principal has also been a great learning process for Georgopolis. He calls Dr. Bazemore an “expert authority” on the works they cover and says that he has been learning from her as much as he has been teaching with her. “Jean and I are a great team,” he says.

An interest in technology has prompted Georgopolis to help with organizing assessments and the class page to ensure students have the information they need. Having never worked with the IB programme before, Georgopolis says that he must often look for guidance from Dr. Bazemore, and respectfully states that, “I’m amazed daily on how Jean reaches out and has connections with students, and how she presents the material to them.”

Another interest of Georgopolis is the historical and cultural backgrounds of a range of subjects. Having worked as a social studies teacher in the past, he now teaches Greek Heritage at the middle school, which, as the son of Greek immigrants, he particularly enjoys. Currently covering short stories out of a classics textbook in the freshman English class, academic vocabulary pertaining to literature is also being studied, and in the future, the class will move on to subjects such as poetry.

As for his plans beyond time in the classroom, Georgopolis will coach the girls’ basketball team for the upcoming season. Thinking of his future at NPA, he reflects that he enjoys teaching day to day and supporting Dr. Bazemore in designing the class. So far, this new addition to NPA’s staff expresses that he has had an incredibly positive experience.



PHOTO BY EVA SWARTZ
Starting his first year at NPA, John Georgopolis is excited to share his Greek heritage with the middle school and freshman class.

SLUGS

from page 1

started by handing City Manager Karen Diemer a letter from the pair, which gave data supporting their argument, some of which they read aloud. They referenced the statistic that “70% of deaths related to child shootings could have been prevented if the firearm was locked and safely stored. Storing guns in lockers or safes would prevent minors from accessing them.” They then referred to the Massachusetts state law Section 131L, which mandates that all firearms be locked, unloaded, and in a safe when not in use. This legislation largely influenced their proposal for local action.

Two weeks later, the two were back at a city council meeting, this time speaking during the public comment time provided after their proposal received its own agenda item. During this time Joachim and Swartz focused on similar ordinances in other municipalities such as San Francisco, and in states such as Massachusetts. After their comment, Mayor Pereira thanked them for their efforts and called their testimony “incredible,” and “one of the most jam-packed [shes] ever heard.”

Diemer stated the current laws, which read: “Unless otherwise unlawful, any person over the age of 18, who is not prohibited from possessing firearms, may have a loaded or unloaded firearm at his/her place of residence.” Diemer also notes that “California Penal Code Section 25100 makes it a crime to store a loaded firearm that is accessible to a child if the child obtains the firearm and causes injury or death and/or carries the firearm into a public place.”

Councilmembers raised concerns with the how the bill would be enforced, as well as reasonable punishments and level of severity. Ultimately, they voted to have staff research possible language for the bill. Councilmember Paul Pitino described the ordinance as “symbolically [telling] whoever owns that gun that you’ve got to control it.”

After the meeting was reported in local media the following day, Swartz and Joachim found themselves met with opposition from the community. The Lost Coast Outpost reported that Aaron Ostrom, owner of Pacific Outfitters, had concerns about the proposed ordinance and its possible infringement on the rights of law-abiding gun owners in their homes. Ostrom worried that the language of the ordinance, which states that guns must be kept unloaded and stored, would make home defense difficult.

Ostrom told the Lost Coast Outpost that “[he is] totally for a family’s right to protect themselves in their own home with lethal force,” and worries that this bill would make home protection difficult and that the law would be logistically impossible to enforce. However, Ostrom does stress the importance of firearm training and safe storage. He teaches the California Concealed Weapons course in Eureka, and says that “we’re huge advocates for proper firearm storage,” and that “you can



PHOTO BY ABRAM RAU
Left to right: Oliver Schroeder, Olivia Joachim, and Eva Swartz are interviewed by Northcoast News and KIEM-TV following an Arcata City Council meeting.

never have too much training.”

The ordinance has also attracted attention from national firearm groups. The Firearms Policy Coalition published a piece on their website calling for letters to be sent opposing the bill, as well as videos on their YouTube channel denouncing the ordinance. KRCR 7 has reported that Vice Mayor Brett Watson received over 20 letters in opposition to the safe storage ordinance.

After school was let out in June, Swartz and Joachim enjoyed three months of freedom without having to push their proposal through the city council. After the May 16 meeting, City Manager Diemer said that a Public Safety Committee would be appointed in August, and they would be best suited to research the bill, after Diemer and the City Attorney both noted that much research needed to be done.

The next time the ordinance would be addressed would be at the Sept. 19 city council meeting. A draft of the bill had been written and was presented to the city council for review. It mandated that all firearms be in a safe or with a trigger lock in a residence unless it is within arms’ reach. At the meeting after the proposed language was discussed, Mayor Pereira explained that the council was currently in the process of deciding to move forward with the ordinance, which they did. The council planned to review the existing San Francisco ordinance which the language was based on. Mayor Pereira said that the bill “would include findings from the San Francisco ordinance,” and “local findings as well.”

A full ordinance was prepared for the Oct. 17 city council meeting, and City Attorney Nancy Diamond said that the ordinance “was nearly identical to the one in San Francisco.” The bill was then discussed further before being opened up to public comment. Swartz and Joachim were the first to speak and attempted to rebuff arguments against the ordinance, citing their statistics. Swartz also said that “this has gone a lot farther than expected.” In succes-

sion with the pair’s thoughts, NPA sophomore Oliver Schroeder spoke in favor of the ordinance. However, the next eight speakers were not as supportive. Many came forward with concerns about enforcement and infringement on their rights, including Ostrom, who echoed his previous concerns. Finally, Swartz’s mother and father stood up to offer their perspective on the bill, and the realities facing high schoolers across the country. Many others told personal stories relating to gun violence, including one person who was a high school student at the time of the Columbine Massacre in 1999. In total, 16 people spoke at the public comment time.

The bill was moved to the consent calendar for the November 7 meeting. When the calendar was being read, Councilmember Susan Ornelas pulled the ordinance for separate discussion and stated her opinions on the issue. She announced her opposition to the bill which passed by a 4-1 vote.

Ornelas later explained her decision to vote against the proposal. “I really appreciate the two young women who proposed this bill,” she told the Herald, but states that she feels most of what this bill covers is already in California state law. “California has very strict gun laws,” she said. Ornelas also echoed sentiments shared by groups opposing this bill when she noted that the bill would be impossible to enforce because “no one is going into people’s homes to check [if their guns are stored legally].”

As ordinance 1510 was added to Section 3 of the Arcata Municipal code, Mayor Pereira could be seen saying “congrats” to Swartz and Joachim in the audience, completing an eight-month journey to pass legislation. “I felt glad to do something good for the community,” Swartz said.

Swartz and Joachim said that for them, the end came suddenly. The ordinance was only on the consent calendar, and they had thought that there were still more meetings to come. Nonetheless, the two were happy to complete their journey.

Alumna Mariah Ziemer wins local photography awards



NPA alumna Mariah Ziemer was awarded “Best Black and White Photo,” and “Best Color Photo” at the 2018 Humboldt County Fair for her photos of former Heron Herald staff writer Talavan Cohen.



MIDTERM

from page 1

the most frequent voters, and the juniors the least.

Sophomore Savannah Tarlton spoke about her thoughts on her school’s debate and election process saying that she “learned a lot,” and that while she “knew a lot about what was happening,” the debates increased her awareness of certain issues, like Proposition 7, the bill addressing daylight savings time. When asked what she thought about the debate process as a whole, she thought that it “allows people to get the perspectives of different viewpoints.” She is excited to debate in her senior year.

The only close race for this election was between Senator Feinstein and State Senator De Leon, two democrats. Almost all other races were landslide wins for the side supported by the democratic party. The most

dramatic win was that of Newsom over Cox. He received 89 out of the 96 votes cast, a 93 percent margin. The sophomore class was the most unified in their voting, as they were rarely closely divided on any issues. No class was extremely divided, however the most contested class was the juniors with ten votes for Feinstein and ten for De Leon. NPA’s vote differed from the state’s on only one of the issues the school covered. It rejected Proposition 7, the vote to keep daylight savings time active all year round (NPA’s vote being 35 for “yes” and 61 for “no”), while 60 percent of Californians approved.

The mock elections held by NPA every two years are valuable not only because they provide the seniors with an opportunity to further their debating skills, but because the entire student body can experience what a typical American election is like, constructing a view of their own on a wide range of issues.



PHOTO BY EVA SWARTZ
Senior Liana Freeman, representing the “yes” side of Proposition 7, excitedly shares her research about daylight savings time at the NPA Senior class mock debate.

How NPA's votes compare to California's

Race	NPA's Vote	California's Vote
GOVERNOR		
Gavin Newsom	93%	59%
John Cox	7%	41%
SENATOR		
Dianne Feinstein	53%	54%
Kevin de Leon	47%	46%
PROP 6		
Yes	23%	45%
No	77%	55%
PROP 7		
Yes	36%	60%
No	64%	40%
PROP 10		
Yes	77%	61%
No	23%	39%
PROP 12		
Yes	83%	61%
No	17%	39%
MEASURE K		(Humboldt's Vote)
Yes	78%	51.5%
No	22%	48.5%

Girls tennis forges ahead

By Gabriel Blank
Staff Writer

Despite any hardships they may face, NPA’s girls’ tennis team remains strong in their commitment to playing their best. 2018 has seen the NPA girls varsity tennis team remain a strong competitor in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, with a final league ranking of third out of eight teams total. The team has around 14 members with varying levels of involvement, with just two seniors and one junior. Team captain Brianna Chapman says “we have a lot of freshmen and sophomores this year, which is really nice, and they have been playing on the middle school team, so they already have a little bit of experience. They know each other already so they’ve brought a really good energy to the team.” The strength of that legacy is important, as the top three players on the ladder will all be graduating this year or the next. However, this should not be concerning, as the team was in a similar situation last season with the

loss of then top-ranked players Celeste Kastel-Riggan and Ruth Magee and has still maintained its strong position in the upper echelon of teams.

The girls tennis season has been divided into roughly two halves, with a hiatus around late September and early October, which players say allowed for a regrouping and some time to develop their skills.

Goalwise, however, the players have not been solely focused on being up to the mark competitively. Chapman says “we’ve had a lot of team bonding, playing outside of practices. There’s been a lot of good spirit and energy... we’ve played some night tennis and weekend matches to improve our doubles.” Despite some losses, including situations where most of the higher-ranked players were in Ashland and unable to compete, there is a definite focus upon getting stronger no matter the result and reflecting on both wins and losses as learning experiences.

One notable change to the team this year has been the addition of Gabe Trepanier as a coach alongside head coach Michael Bazemore. The gener-

al consensus among players seems to be that while his style of teaching may be similar to coach Bazemore’s, it has been very helpful for the team to have another person to work with on hand and to have another perspective on the game.

Despite the loss of two of its top three players next year, including Vienna, Austria’s own Hannah Fodor and Captain Chapman, the girls team has a strong framework for the years to come because, says Chapman of the underclassmen players, “they’re already higher on the ladder because we have so few upperclassmen, so they’re getting more experience playing against these other higher-ranked players from other teams, so they’re getting a head start. I think in the next few years we’ll have a really strong team.” There is little doubt that the NPA girls tennis team has both the depth and commitment to be a strong league competitor. The camaraderie and joy of playing is easily observable throughout multiple areas of the ladder, showing that, regardless of the score-lines, the girls tennis team remain winners.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA CHAPMAN
Freshman rookie Nai’a Ryman is one of fourteen players to join the girl’s tennis squad this year. Coach Bazemore appreciates the new energy he saw on the court this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA CHAPMAN
Seniors Brianna Chapman (left) and Hannah Fodor (right) celebrate a long afternoon of tennis in their final year representing the Herons on the court. Chapman and Fodor have mentored the younger players and both express confidence in the future of the girl’s team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA CHAPMAN
Freshman rookie Alex Riggs is another face of the future of NPA girl’s tennis. The girl’s team finished with a ranking of third out of eight teams in the Humboldt-Del Norte League. New players like Riggs benefited from a lot of matches against high ranked players this season.



Film reviews

Fahrenheit 11/9

By Slate Taylor
Staff Writer

Fahrenheit 11/9 uses cinematographic tools such as drama, flashy footage, and stunts to tell the story of our country from the eyes of Michael Moore. Moore's new, captivating documentary poses the question: "how did Donald Trump get elected?" He sets out to answer this through a series of anecdotes, one of the most prominent of these being the water disaster in Flint, Michigan. Moore discusses the election of Michigan's governor, Rick Snyder, former chairman of Gateway computers. Snyder is comparable to Donald Trump in that his lack of political experience mirrors the president's, as does his promise to "run Michigan like a business." Flint is Moore's childhood home, and he goes into great detail regarding the build up and aftermath of the lead-poisoned water.

This film draws at viewer's emotions in a variety of ways. Moore talks about many upsetting incidents, such as the epidemic of mass shootings in the U.S., and the corruption of a spread of political figures. However, he

also gives the viewer hope by talking about the people who are stepping up to try and make a change. He interviews many new leaders, like the survivors of the Parkland shooting, who have organized many protests.

Another tactic of Moore's is his use of music to create emotions such as tension, fear, and calm. In the introductory scene of the film, he shows us shots of the Hillary Clinton campaign, meant to be inspiring, with one of her themes, "This is my Fight Song" by Rachel Platten, in the background. As Moore switches to brief shots of Trump, he also changes to more tense music, introducing the President as the villain of the film. At many points, shocking and graphic footage of real life events is presented to show the severity of an event. This is an effective method of showing the horror of some situations, but the film could be distressing for some viewers, as uncut videos of the Parkland shooting are briefly shown, along with other upsetting content.

Fahrenheit 11/9's purpose seems to be to remind viewers just how fragile America's democracy is, and to show us examples of people trying to

maintain it. Moore talks with people across America that share his views, and that are fighting for change.

Fahrenheit 11/9 is a very well-made film, as it addresses topics head on, while keeping a standard of good editing, voicing, and timing throughout the film. Overall, this is another hard-hitting, dramatic commentary from Moore which manages to be both horrifying, eye opening, and funny all in two hours and five minutes. 4.5/5

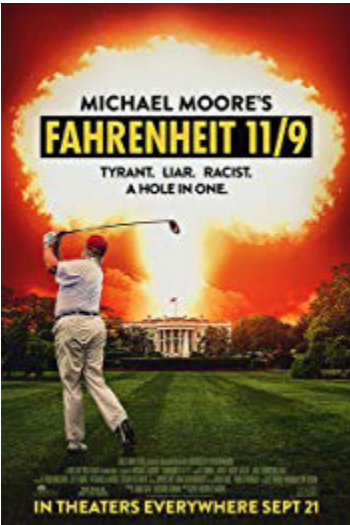


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIARCLIFF ENTERTAINMENT

Ocean's 8

By Zaca Leatherwood
Staff Writer

Ocean's 8 is a riveting thrill of a film that combines the previously successful formula of prior instalments in the Ocean's series while also giving the unexpected twist of an all-star female cast, veering away from the series' long history of little to no female representation in the lead roles.

Ocean's 8 follows Debbie Ocean (Sandra Bullock), newly released from prison, as she puts together an eight-member all female team of experts to execute a massive heist aiming to steal a \$150 necklace from the Met Gala in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A highlight in the film is Bullock in her convincing role as Debbie Ocean; her performance stands out and helps set the intended mood of the movie with the solemn but humorous attitude that she brings. However, what the movie gains in its reuse of the classic and fun scenario of previous instalments in the series, it loses in creativity and originality with its similar plot and parallels to Ocean's Eleven (2001).

The pacing of the film is something new, not seen in many movies, where the momentum starts to slow down after the peak of suspense till the resolution, leaving the viewer with an overall original feeling, as well as something that might not be for everyone. While the amusing feel and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

mood of the movie seems intended, it also seems to have some more bright and humorous themes as well as dramatic suspense making it seem comedic at times. This makes the movie appear more of a dramatic comedy than what would be expected from a dramatic heist film.

Overall, the film is an entertaining and gripping ride filled with suspense and tension, leaving the viewer on the edge of their seat. 3.5/5

Eighth Grade

By Eva Swartz
Staff Writer

Eighth Grade, comedian Bo Burnham's first movie, is a relatable, honest take in the genre of teenage films. Kayla Day, played by Elsie Fisher, is a typical student finishing the end of her eighth grade year. She struggles with self-confidence, bullying, and a lack of views on her inspirational YouTube channel, in addition to a tense relationship with her dad. With the help of Olivia (Emily Robinson), a caring senior who takes Kayla under her wing, she learns how to overcome some of her anxiety and explore who she wants to be.

Feeling out of place is an experience nearly everyone can relate to, but some critics were concerned that the cast made of mostly teenagers would leave the movie enjoyable for a limited audience. When asked how she felt about this issue in a interview with IndieWire, Fisher responded by saying that "these are experiences everyone has, they're just easily articulated through an eighth grader." Day's feelings of isolation regarding both her classmates and her father, strengthen the overall message of the movie.

Some parts of the story rely heavily on stereotypes pressed upon young teenagers, which makes these scenes appear out of place with the genuine and original ideas presented in the rest of the film. Despite this, Burnham does an excellent job of pinpointing the modern teenage experience, with nuances directed to older audiences. While filming the movie, Burnham used clips of Day's real interactions online and on social media, giving an authentic and familiar quality easily recognizable to the majority of viewers. When asked by IndieWire how he researched before writing Day's role, Burnham said that "if you want to learn about kids this age, it's like they're posting their entire lives online for you, so that's a way to do it."

Although Day struggles throughout the movie, the bright ending leaves the viewer feeling hopeful towards her future. The display raw emotion paired with skillful acting create a story that immerses the viewer in the life of Day, and her experiences throughout her final weeks of eighth grade. 4.5/5

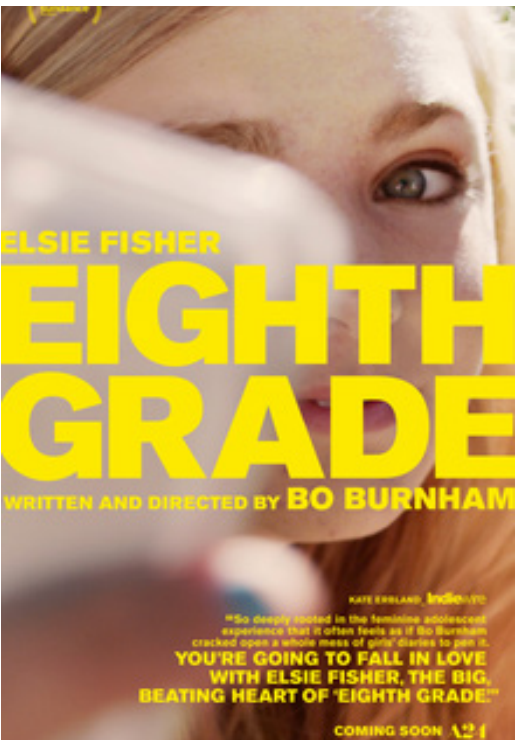


PHOTO COURTESY OF A24

Running for a cause

NPA's Freshman and Sophomore classes participate in Pledge Run for victims of Camp Fire



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARNOLD KING
From left to right: Zipporah Gaskill, Garrett Leach, Jason Roberts, Bella Ely, and Slate Taylor are a few of the hardworking students dedicated to earning money for the victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise. The Freshman and Sophomore classes ran a combined 245 miles in their effort to raise money for the cause.

By Abram Rau and Slate Taylor
Staff Writers

On November 29th, the NPA Freshman and Sophomore classes ran a Pledge Run to raise money for people affected by the Camp Fire near Paradise, California. Organized by NPA history teacher Army King and sponsored by Los Bagels, the idea was to help people affected by the Camp Fire. The fire has killed at least 88 people and displaced thousands more, creating a refugee crisis in neighboring towns and becoming the most destructive wildfire in California history.

Both classes ran a combined total of 1,961 laps at the local Wind-song Village Park, which came out to be around 245 miles, the same distance as running from Arcata to Stockton, California, and back. This number of laps generated

around \$2,500, King estimates. The money was gathered through pledges and flat donations and is going to the Paradise Rotary Club Fire Fund, and the Butte County Humane Society. Pledges and donations were received from many local businesses and citizens of Humboldt County.

At the end of the run, King addressed concerns from students who had pledges from people who pledged for an entire class, or both classes. One person had pledged \$1 for each lap completed by both classes, which would be a donation of \$1,961. King had said that there were miscommunications between students and people pledging. He said that students were encouraged to solicit donations from people of what they were comfortable giving.

The Freshman class had 75 minutes to run, and the Sophomores had 85. Sophomore Miles Eldridge ran 70 laps in this time, almost nine

miles. When asked how he felt about this accomplishment, Eldridge said, "It was hard, but it didn't leave any permanent damage." Zaca Leatherwood, sophomore, and Jaxon Javet-Peaker, freshman, both ran 67 laps. Leatherwood ran his laps without any breaks to stop and walk, and said he felt tired but good about his run, "It's good to know that this isn't just running for P.E. and that there's actually money going to something." Other students stated they felt really good after the run, and as Garrett Leach put it, "I think this could help some people."

After the run, students enjoyed toasted bagels, courtesy of Los Bagels and Zipporah Gaskill, who provided the toaster. The Pledge Run was a great success for NPA and a lot of fun for the students who participated.



The Halloween House Horrors

By Alex Riggs and Zoe Osborn
Staff Writers

It was a warm Halloween morning and the students from Trinidad Elementary and NPA middle school gathered at Jean Bazemore's home. The hallways were hot, the groups large. As clumps of reluctant middle schoolers and elementary schoolers crowded upstairs, fear awaited them.

The students were escorted into the scary room, which had little light and many surprises. Tea light candles and Victorian-style decor lined the walls and corners. Everyone was dressed in black, with puritanical lace accessories and side tables with skulls and little old books. As the students milled around the nearly dark, dank room, they were greeted by cult-like characters inviting them to a ball. Chanting and circling, running and spooking, the scary room was a disturbing site to many of the young students attending.

With over a 100 kids in attendance, each room of the Halloween house was packed with students from a variety of ages. Since the first Halloween house, there have been eight activities added: the fortune telling room, happy room, pirate ship, fairy forest, the cookie decorating table, scarecrow maze, gnome home, and face painting. The first Halloween house originally was comprised solely of the scary room, but, according to Amy Miller, the happy room was created afterward as a sort of "detox" from the terror the scary room invoked on children. The other subsequent rooms were created in order to make the whole experience more interesting and give the Halloween house more dimensions.

The rooms of the 2018 Halloween house were all very different, yet they shared one thing: pure creativity. The scary room truly brought to life the spirit of Halloween, while the happy room served as a fun and joyful relief for the students attending. The fortune telling room was mysterious and intriguing, full of tarot card and palm readers alike. The whimsical fairy forest contrasted nicely with the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LASSE LACROIX
Senior Hannah Fodor paints the face of an elementary school student dressed as a clown. NPA's annual Halloween house is a wonderful opportunity for students of all ages to get to know each other.

action-packed pirate ship. In a nook in the trees, a tale of smurfs and gnomes unfolded in front of the young audience's eyes, while indoors, frosting and candy were spread onto cookies at the cookie decorating table by the kids attending. Scarecrow maze and face painting, while not the most elaborate of the rooms, brought smiles to the faces of younger and older children alike.

Both new and returning students found NPA's Halloween house to be relatively put together and entertaining, with very few suggestions on how it could be improved upon. This year's Halloween house was "very well orga-

nized," with everyone doing something, according to Joey Hodges, an NPA sixth year. A multitude of guests shared similar opinions to Hodges and agreed that the event was very well organized. Hodges also thought that the house made the visiting students "feel like (they're) a part of it and not just watching a show." Many students favored the fortune telling room and scary room over the others when interviewed.

With few complaints and lots of positive feedback, the widely popular tradition will hopefully continue for years to come.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LASSE LACROIX
Left to right: Indigo Speciale, Nai'a Ryman, Seri Welsh, and Swedish visitor Amilcar Lacroix enjoy themselves as they take part in various activities offered at the Halloween house.

The Swedish students' successful stay

By Alex Riggs and Zoe Osborn
Staff Writers

For the six Swedish visitors from Biskops Arno, it was a long journey to rural Humboldt County. Jetlagged and fresh off the plane, the group was in a state of fatigue. The small group of Swedish visitors were welcomed at NPA, where they visited intermittently for two weeks. Although culture shock had set in, the group soon realized that Arcata California, in many ways, wasn't much different from their own home in Sweden.

Although Sweden is 5,327 miles from California, Biskops Arnö bears many

similarities to Humboldt, such as the liberal perspectives and attitude of care regarding the environment which residents of both places share. These similarities were also portrayed through everyday stylistic choices made by the Swedish visitors and Humboldt residents. Albin Sneck, one of the Swedish students, said that "people in Humboldt are more rasta," commenting on the way they dress and act. Apart from this, Biskops Arnö student Max Hall finds that "Swedish people are friendly, but Humboldters are actually social," meaning that while Swedes will smile at you in passing, Humboldtians will ask you how

you are doing and say hello.

Lasse Lacroix, the photography teacher from Biskops Arno says that he, "loves working in Humboldt because it's so simple, [and] you can focus on happiness." He says that in Sweden, they question everything, but here in Humboldt, he can be in "uninterrupted bliss."

Another difference that many students noticed was resources. While Humboldt has local stores everywhere, a farmer's market, and great art programs (which bring a communal feeling), Sweden has other approaches in many things. For example, Hall "likes living in a country made for pedestrians, not cars." These differences span from public transportation all the way to education.

According to Amilcar Lacroix, the education system at NPA is pretty different from that of Biskops Arnö. At Biskops Arnö, the students "study at [their] own pace," and don't have any tests except for in math class, and only when they've finished a chapter.

When asked about the main difference between the two schools in terms of education, Lacroix replied with a laugh: "you have more homework." The other Swedish visitors all agreed with this statement and noted that they tend to work on larger projects over the course of more lengthy periods of time rather than having small homework tasks on a regular basis. Lacroix says they have "no busywork."

While none of the students spent enough time at NPA to get a good understanding of what the grading system is like and compare it to that of Biskops Arnö, they think that the "grading system is excellent" in Sweden (which is an A-F scale). One of the only concerns that Lacroix has, as a teacher, is that students are becoming increasingly disinterested in

the arts. He thinks that this might be for economic reasons. Since being an artist isn't always the most lucrative career path, some students don't even consider it as an option. Lacroix teaches photography and always enjoys it when he sees a student find something that they're passionate about. Overall, the Swedish students agreed that the education systems at both NPA and Biskops Arnö seem effective, though they do have their differences.

Taking in another aspect of their stay entirely, the activities that the Swedes took part in while they were here were all thanks to the dedicated host families and other parent volunteers. These things included going surfing, carving pumpkins, going to museums, driving to Patrick's Point, and many others. Amadeus Garcia-Brown, a freshman, felt that having an exchange student was a "very good experience" and that it was "very neat to have someone from another country." He will also be hosting a student again in the spring semester. Sophomore Bella Ely enjoyed that the student "shared her culture with (her)" and likes hosting because it "brings in a different perspective on politics, culture, etc." From this experience, she feels inspired enough that she may do an exchange in Europe herself. It seems as if both Biskops Arnö students and NPA students alike have been inspired by the visit.

In the short time the Swedes had in Humboldt, they experienced a lot. From surfing at Camel Rock to observing classes at NPA, they learned that Humboldt isn't too different from their hometown and that both Biskops Arnö and Humboldt could learn something from one another. As these young adults embark on new chapters in their lives, they will carry with them a new perspective on life and their place in this world.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LASSE LACROIX
One of the many events the Swedish visitors enjoyed was the annual Halloween House. Overall, the Swedish students found that Humboldt was welcoming, and surprisingly similar to their home.



Free press under attack

Herald journalist encounters censorship first hand in Turkey

By Abigail Hasting-Tharp
Staff Writer

All across the world, journalism and free speech are under attack. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, over the past two years, of the 262 jailed journalists worldwide, 73 of them have been incarcerated in Turkey.

This October, I traveled to Turkey for eleven days on an adventure to be immersed in Turkish culture and to learn about the Islamic tradition of Sufism. We toured mosques and synagogues and explored the streets of Istanbul, Capadocia, and Konya. Our hired tour guide had spearheaded dozens of educational tours like this before. He knew his way around the cities we went to and was fluent in Turkish and Persian, so he could translate for the members of our tour group that only spoke English.

Our group was also accompanied by an official government tour guide named Delik. It is the law in Turkey that every touring group must contain a trained guide who has graduated from a three-year tour guide program. Delik was a very smart and friendly woman, even though, as our hired guide explained to us, her purpose on our tour was to make sure that he was not telling us things about Turkey that the government didn't want us to know.

On the fourth day of the trip, we spent the night in a city called Ankara. While there, we stopped for a few hours at Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of the Republic of Turkey's first president, Atatürk. The mausoleum is a shrine and educational center to the life of the late president and the work he did to reform Turkey. Before getting off the bus, our hired guide warned us to beware the men in black suits that we would encounter at Anıtkabir. "All men in black suits are evil," he told us with a laugh.

Once we went inside, we learned he was only half joking. Everywhere you looked, dozens of men in black and grey suits walked around. They wore no indication that they were guards and had no guns, but they whispered into their walkie-talkies constantly and they watched all the visitors carefully. Inside the educational wing of the mausoleum, they would walk up and stand in on our conversations as we looked at the exhibits, contributing nothing verbally but blatantly listening in.

It was becoming chillingly evident that even as a tourist, my perception of the Turkish government and history was being carefully crafted and monitored. At this time, I was fairly ignorant about the political climate in Turkey and its effect on freedom of the press. I decided to do some research, only to find that most of the news sources we use in America were blocked. This was incredibly shocking. Not only are the Turkish people unable to openly discuss their political opinions without risk of arrest or worse, but they aren't able to fully inform themselves

"I believe it is time for us all to start exercising our constitutional right to assemble and petition the government to sculpt the country we wish to live in."

Abigail Hasting-Tharp, Staff Writer

about the world around them.

An example of this is the recent murder of Jamal Khashoggi, which happened in Istanbul at the same time I was there. Khashoggi was a Saudi Arabian reporter who was writing for the Washington Post. He was killed at the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul due to his outspoken criticism of the Saudi Arabian government. The most shocking part of this incident for me was that even though this murder occurred less than 15 miles from my hotel, I didn't find out about it until I had returned to the states. Along with the rest of Istanbul, I had been sheltered from this news.

I talked with our hired guide about all of this and learned that this drastic increase in control came about after a coup in 2016, where there was an attempt to take back the government from current Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Since then, the president has personally bought up or shut down all of the newspapers and networks. In Turkey, it is illegal to publish any criticism of the Turkish government or policies. This is justified using a Turkish law that declares it illegal to insult the Turkish government, the president, or "Turkishness."

It is with this heightened awareness that I return to the United States, where our own president says that news media "is the enemy of the American people." He actively works to undermine news agencies by calling their reporting "fake news," even revoking a reporters press privileges in the White House. While this suppression of free speech is not as extreme as what I witnessed in Turkey, it is alarming and we should heed the warning signs now.

Here in America, we are able to speak openly about our beliefs and opinions. Unlike Turkey, we do not fear imprisonment for asking the hard questions. I believe it is time for us all to start exercising our constitutional right to assemble and petition the government to sculpt the country we wish to live in. It is our job as Americans to become informed, get involved, and support journalists in their quest to keep our government accountable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABIGAIL HASTING-THARP
Sophomore Abigail Hasting-Tharp visits Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Turkish founder and first President of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Students participate in Redwood Pride

By Alex Riggs
Staff Writer

Whoever you are, Humboldt's annual, "Redwood Pride," welcomes you. With a range of rainbow themed merchandise, people of all different orientations, ethnicities, and a genuinely caring atmosphere, this is a place for everyone.

Redwood Pride takes place every year on September 29th, from about ten a.m. to four p.m. Unlike other cities in the U.S., such as San Francisco, which have pride in June, pride month in Humboldt is September. The all-inclusive event took place at Jefferson Center and was planned to be outside, but to the organizers' dismay, it began to rain. Nevertheless, the featured organizations and attendees brought their booths inside. Most people appeared unphased by the slight change in venue.

Programs including Teen Court, Planned Parenthood, HSU pride,

Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods, and others had booths for people to visit. Many of these organizations also appeared in the parade, with banners and representatives decked out in colorful pins, stickers, and flags from head to toe.

The parade lasted from four to five p.m., and went through Old Town, gaining a sizeable turnout, according to many NPA students who were there. "For a relatively small and limited community, the turnout was very inspiring," says senior Carson Campbell-Wiley, who attended Redwood Pride.

The general consensus of the NPA students attending was that Humboldt did a very good job representing the LGBTQ+ community in the pride event. It was "crowded, but that means it had a good turnout. However, the venue could have been better," said Bella Ely, a sophomore. Freshman Maren McComas thought that, to make Humboldt pride better, the management of the event could

"widen the elements," in terms of the venue. Campbell-Wiley provided a different perspective, saying that the venue was good, "local, accessible, and youth friendly," but also lacked when it came to capacity. Similarly to many NPA students, Sophomore Acacia Castillo felt that "Humboldt is very inclusive." Freshman Nai'a Ryman responded that "Humboldt county does it's best to represent the LGBTQ+ community, but it's a small, somewhat isolated place that doesn't quite float at the same pace as the rest of California or even the U.S.," and she feels that this is why we have pride in a completely different month than everywhere else. "I think we do the best that we can with the resources that we have to make an abundant place for LGBTQ+ people and allies to meet and enjoy each other's company." Natasha Anderson, a sophomore, gave a similar response, saying that "we have extra motivation to make it as influential and inclusive as possible."

Senior Austrian exchange student Hannah Fodor shares her optimism with Anderson, and thinks that "there is no place that represents the LGBTQ+ community better than Humboldt."

To conclude, Humboldt County Pride 2018 was generally very successful, other than the small venue. Humboldt has pride a different month than everywhere else, but this does not stop the organizers of the event from making it just as inclusive and colorful as everywhere else. Some NPA students attending wanted more variety in what pride had to offer for those attending, and some thought it was done very well and that the venue was youth-friendly and easily accessible. Humboldt's pride was an all-around success in many NPA student's eyes, and it will continue to be a place where everyone is welcome.



PHOTOS BY EVA SWARTZ
The pride parade, including NPA students, march proudly through Old Town, making their way down Second Street and towards the Historic Eagle House for a night of-all ages performances.

NPA's cross country team grows in competition and leadership

By Somerset Nielsen
Staff Writer

Running around the Arcata Community Center in the first cross country meet of the season, many runners were met with the sound of their coaches yelling at them to go faster and push themselves to their limits. NPA's runners, however, were delighted to hear their own coach, NPA's IB physics and math teacher Adam Hess, cheering them on and giving them the support that they needed to pass the finish line.

This is Hess' second year as the cross country team's coach, but this season has already proven to be a lot different from the last. The team has grown since last year, as all of last year's runners returned, and many new runners joined. The team is composed of ten runners: Amaya Bechler, Tehilla Horowitz, Shoni Rheinschmidt, Zaca Leatherwood, Abram Rau, Bella Ely, Jason Roberts, Zoe Osborn, Ryder Koppenhaver, and Jaxon Javet-Peaker. While Hess is very glad to have all of his runners from last year returning to the team, he is most excited about his new runners. These new additions have made it possible for NPA to have both a boys team and a girls team, allowing them to compete against other teams in the area. While Hess doesn't put pressure on the runners to win, he notes that the competition "adds an extra element of fun," because the team can

see how they rank against others in the area.

Usually, the team likes to practice around Arcata and the Arcata Marsh, but their favorite place to run, according to Rheinschmidt is the Arcata Community Forest. The run usually lasts for 40 minutes to an hour, depending on the route, but Hess has been struggling to find courses capable of accommodating the growing team, which is now too large to fit in one of the school's vans. Acknowledging the inconvenience that this often places on his runners, Hess says that he is trying his best to find routes that everyone is happy with, and he hopes that he can continue to get all of the runners to come to as many practices as possible.

Hess has noticed that one of the challenges of being a coach is that attendance is often scattered because practice is not mandatory. He tries his best to make sure that all of the runners are able to practice as often as possible, but it becomes difficult at times. Hess says that he has been, "offering practices 5 days a week so that [he's] always there, knowing that if someone's busy on a given day, they can have time to run." Bechler states that "Adam's policy is that you have to come at least three times a week," and that the team is very grateful that he is making himself available for them to improve their running on their own schedules.

Co-captains Bechler and Horowitz both feel that the team as a whole loves having Hess as a coach and greatly appreciates his effort and support. Bechler recalled that Hess "pays attention to how we're feeling versus just making us



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIA RHEINSCHMIDT
Members of the team, left to right: Zaca Leatherwood, Shoni Rheinschmidt, Bella Ely, Jaxon Javet-Peaker, Jason Roberts, and Zoe Osborn. The cross-country team celebrates a successful season after their final race.

run as fast as we can, it's really nice and we feel very supported." Along with his supportive and positive attitude, Hess's team values his running advice. Hess has a connection with the former HSU cross country captain and has been getting some ideas about how to build endurance and strength in the runners. Many of the runners have noticed their performance improving after taking Hess' advice.

Bechler, who is now in her third year on the team has enjoyed her time so far because it is "such a great bonding experience," and that, although it can be difficult, "suffering together makes us such good friends, and it's really fun." Horowitz, who has been on the team for two years, feels that "the [main] reason that I am in cross country is that it is such a supportive climate. It just teaches you to do better for yourself instead of other people, which is a good life lesson." Hess has also had a very positive experience on the

team so far, saying that the cross country team is "a way where I can see the students each day in a different environment where we can have our own team mentality. I like that it's different, it's a different relationship with the students, so it's fun."

One of Hess' goals for the season is to keep everyone healthy, because "if you're not healthy and you're not able to run, that's what we do in cross country, so I'm having those students that have injuries rest or do whatever they need to do to help themselves." With that goal in mind, Hess hopes to see progress with his students. He says that "[it] can be just mental strength or toughness, or it could be seeing their times drop each week, it's kind of something that I'll leave up to each runner and what they see for themselves." Hess hopes that the team will continue to develop and improve, and he looks forward to seeing how they will work together and support one another as the season progresses.



Catching up on the garden with Siena Costanzo

By **Zaca Leatherwood**
Staff Writer

How long has gardening been going on?
“This is our second year. I started it last year with a senior named Maximus Landon.”

What inspired you to start it?
“We wanted an elective were we could be outside and grow fruits and vegetables for our kitchen.”

What foods has it provided to the school?
“We have an herb box, brussel sprouts, broccoli, carrots, kale, beets, and butter lettuce. Cabbage, potatoes, sage, mint, and oregano mostly go to the school.”

Where did you first learn to garden?
“Well, I grew up in the hills, and I’ve been gardening basically since I was one. Both my parents grew up on farms.”

How has the garden changed and improved since it started?
“It has gone from two to five beds.”

What’s something you hope to have in gardening for future years?
“We’re working on a compost meal with worms.”

What do you feel you’re getting out of gardening?
“I feel like it’s a great way to exercise and to know that you’re giving back to your community.”

Why do you think people should join gardening?
“It’s a relaxing break from school.”

Has the garden experienced any difficulties recently?
“The tree people came and they cut trees without the church’s permission, and then they dumped all of the branches on our flower beds and killed everything that was growing. And then they wood chipped and dumped all of it right in front of our shed and it took us three days to dig the shed out. In the winter months there is less to do, also some homeless people have been leaving trash in our beds.”

How many members are in the gardening elective?
“Five members and the teacher, Spike.”

What crops grow best in the garden and what do you grow the most of?
“Right now our herb box is dying off which is kind of usual. We have our carrots that are starting and our green onions that grow year round. We have tons of chard and our butter lettuce is going crazy!”



PHOTO BY ZACA LEATHERWOOD
Left to Right: Rayna Pearlingi, Erin Le, Mike “Spike” Egan, Conrad McConnell, Indigo Speciale, and Siena Costanzo press apples behind NPA on a sunny Tuesday afternoon as a part of the gardening elective.



PHOTO BY ZACA LEATHERWOOD
Junior Conrad McConnell (center) has been a member of the gardening club since the beginning of this year, and enjoys working alongside his friends.

Exchange student profiles

Tejashri Mahajan

By **Meadow Jennings**
Staff Writer

When summer ends and the school year begins again, students return to NPA and new faces grace the campus as eager freshmen and new upperclassmen join the high school. This is also a time for students to participate in an international exchange, coming to NPA from a range of countries to experience life in a country with a different culture, language, and lifestyle.

One of the four exchange students attending NPA this year is sixteen-year-old Tejashri Mahajan, from Maharashtra Nashik, India. She has come all the way across the world and transitioned to a place with a time difference of twelve and a half hours and a climate which is generally much cooler than that of her home. Nevertheless, Mahajan is excited to be in the United States and living in Humboldt with her host family Julie Hayes, Pablo Bayo, and NPA freshman Nai’a Ryman for the 2018-2019 school year.

When asked about her thoughts on traveling abroad, Mahajan replied that “from the day I understood that [studying] abroad exists, I always wanted to visit other places except my country.” She continued by giving her thoughts on American Field Services International (AFS) and the exchange program she is a part of, saying that “[she] thought it was an interesting program and that [she] should apply for it and just give it a try, and that now [she’s] here.” She says she sometimes misses her family in India and the food from her home country, but also loves the opportunity the exchange program has given her to “bond with other family and friends,” and is grateful for her welcoming host family.

When asked about the differences and similarities between NPA and her school in Maharashtra, Nashik, Mahajan said that “our school used to be very strict, and there we had four divisions in one class, and in one class there were about 100 students.” She explained that at her school it is mandatory that all students wear a uniform, and that girls must wear their hair in braids and cannot wear makeup or jewelry. Along with the differences between schools, Mahajan said she was surprised to see people and strangers greeting each other in passing or

on the street. “In India, we just don’t say ‘hi,’ or ‘hello,’ and we just don’t greet the people who are just strangers or passersby,” Mahajan explained.

Despite the many differences between India and the U.S., Mahajan appreciates her unique opportunity for education abroad, and is currently interested in her studies of history, physics, and english. Along with academics, she takes tap dance and violin lessons. After completing high school, Mahajan is interested in pursuing a profession in engineering, or working as an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

This year, joining Mahajan in her year abroad are (in the USA alone) 2,136 students who have been welcomed by host families through the AFS program. If you would like to learn more about being a part of the exchange program or hosting an exchange student through AFS, go to <https://www.afsusa.org/> or contact them at study-abroad@afsusa.org or hosting@afsusa.org.



PHOTO BY EVA SWARTZ
Junior Tejashri Mahajan travelled over 8,500 miles from her home in Maharashtra Nashik, India in order to begin her year as an exchange student at NPA.

Bow Piyasiriluksika

By **Zoe Osborn**
Staff Writer

Imagine the nerves of leaving home for the first time and how frightening it can be. Now picture what it would be like to experience that in another country with an extremely different culture.

These are the nerves that Nutanchasa “Bow” Piyasiriluksika faces head on as she comes back to the U.S. to finish high school and go to college.

Last year Piyasiriluksika came from Bangkok, Thailand to Humboldt County on a J1 visa as a part of the Program of Academic Exchange (PAX). This year, she returned independently with an F1 visa and a plan for her future. Piyasiriluksika joined the NPA community in her junior year when she came to the U.S. for the first time. After spending the school year in Humboldt, she returned to Bangkok, Thailand for two and a half months in the summer before coming back to Humboldt at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

As much as she misses her family and friends in Thailand, she has family and friends here. This year her host family is Chelsea Colby and Jeffrey Haloff, whom she stayed with for part of her visit last year.

In Thailand, Piyasiriluksika experienced a certain amount of sexism, often finding herself compared by her parents as lesser to her younger brother, which is why she came back with the hopes of making her mom and dad proud of her and proving that a “girl can do everything that a boy can,” and to further her education.

Piyasiriluksika’s school in Thailand, Satit Suansunatha is very different from NPA, both in terms of social environment and education. If she were to raise her hand in class, her friends would think her to be “showing off,” and there was over-all a lot of pressure from her peers to be confident in her actions, which she hasn’t experienced at NPA. Satit Suansunatha, in Piyasiriluksika’s opinion, has “too much traditionalism”. For example, most schools in Thailand, including Piyasiriluksika’s, require students to pray every morning. Her old school is also more strict in terms of physical appearance, and Piyasiriluksi-



PHOTO BY EVA SWARTZ
Nutanchasa “Bow” Piyasiriluksika came to NPA last year as a junior and will graduate in the spring alongside the many new friends she has made.

ka recalls how “when [she] was in middle school [she] had to cut [her] hair short” and wear a uniform every day, unlike here at NPA. Piyasiriluksika prefers NPA to Satit Suansunatha because, in Thailand, the curriculum was more based around memorization of facts rather than the understanding and forming of opinions on subjects. She noted that when going back to Thailand for the summer she had “way more confidence,” and she felt like a new person, because of her experience at NPA.

Something that didn’t change for Piyasiriluksika however, was her love of mathematics, which has been a part of her life from an early age. As she grew up helping her mom with accounting at the bank where she worked, she realized how she had a deep interest in mathematics and a desire to pursue it.

Piyasiriluksika says that the hardest thing about coming to the U.S. for the first time was experiencing “a lot of culture shock,” but this year, she says that the thing that’s unnerving her the most is Senior year as a whole. She currently hopes to attend the University of Oregon to study accounting. Upon finishing college, Piyasiriluksika says she would like to travel the world.